

CREDENTIALS OF COUNSELOR/THERAPIST...

Providers of counseling and therapy who have one or more of the following credentials or an equivalent credential in the state in which they practice are eligible to apply for and receive financial assistance on behalf of clergy clients.

Psychiatrist: American Medical Association (AMA) Board Certification

Psychologist (Clinical): Licensed Practicing Psychologist

Pastoral Counselor: Member, Fellow, or Diplomat of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Inc. (AAPC)

Counselor: Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)

Social Worker: Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

**Office of Ministerial
Services
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Montgomery, AL 36106
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CLERGY CARE COUNSELING

(Completely Confidential)

For
CLERGY CONFERENCE
MEMBERS
and their
families...

Clergy Care Committee
The Board of Ordained Ministry
Alabama West Florida Annual
Conference

**A PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE FOR
CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING**

The Committee on Clergy Care of the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Alabama - West Florida Annual Conference was established to provide financial assistance to Clergy families for confidential professional care in times of stress and difficulty.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE for Clergy Counseling

Each active Clergy family of the Alabama - West Florida Conference is entitled to \$250 per calendar year for professional counseling and therapy through the Committee on Clergy Care as funds are available within this budget amount. Additional financial assistance may be available through an insurance policy.

"Family" includes dependents of the minister living in the minister's home, such as spouse, and children {under age of 22}. Dependent children away from home for college are also eligible. The only qualifications are:

1) Clergy Membership in the Alabama - West Florida Conference or serving as Clergy or Diaconal in a local church of the Alabama - West Florida Conference or be a dependent of such a person. *(The Client can show reference to the JOURNAL, which would indicate status.)*

2) The counseling or therapy must be provided by someone who has one or more of the credentials listed in this brochure or by someone on the staff of an approved pastoral care center.

The financial assistance will be provided to cover one-half of the cost of each counseling session (less insurance payments) for which application is made until the full \$250 annual allowance has been granted.

APPLICATION POLICY

At the client's request, the counselor or therapist is to make application for financial assistance to the client in the following manner:

1) The therapist verifies that the client is eligible. *(The Client can show reference to the JOURNAL, which would indicate status.)*

2) The therapist goes to this link (www.awfumc.org/clergyounselinapplication) to receive the application for financial assistance.

3) The application is submitted by the therapist to the Office of Ministerial Services as directed on the application form. Clients will be identified by a case number ONLY! The minister and/or dependents are assigned *the same case number*.

4) The therapist will receive financial assistance on behalf of the client to apply to the client's account or to refund the client as appropriate. Clients should request from the therapist a record or statement showing financial assistance received on their behalf.

5) *The unused portion of the \$250 allotment will not carry over to the next year.*

6) Application for financial assistance MUST be made within the calendar year of the date therapy is received.

Cut-off date for the year's billings is December 31st

Should this procedure not be acceptable to the therapist because of his/her payment contract, the client should request the therapist to contact the Office of Ministerial Services to negotiate an acceptable procedure.

Because of the reporting structure of the annual budget, we are not able to pay for services rendered in the previous calendar year from any current budget dollars. **Therefore, we must ask that all billings for the current calendar year be submitted on or before December 31st, to be received no later than January 3rd.**

During the second calendar week of each year, the previous year's budget is closed and no other monies can be disbursed. Please help us ensure that our clergy will not lose their grant benefit by submitting your billings in a timely fashion. Payment will be remitted within five business days.